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The Vineyard of Liberty

THE
AMERICAN EXPERIMENT

The Vineyard of Liberty

BY
JAMES
MACGREGOR
BURNS

ALFRED A. KNOPF
1982
NEW YORK

THIS IS A BORZOI BOOK
PUBLISHED BY ALFRED A. KNOPF, INC.

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Published in the United States
by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., New York, and simultaneously in Canada
by Random House of Canada Limited, Toronto.
Distributed by Random House, Inc., New York.

Owing to limitations of space, all acknowledgments of permission to use illustrations and maps will be found following the index.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Burns, James MacGregor
The vineyard of liberty.

1. United States—History. I. Title.
E178.B96 1982 973 81-47510
ISBN 0-394-50546-8 (v. 1) AACR2

Manufactured in the United States of America
First Edition

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I sought in my heart to give myself unto wine; I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards; I made me gardens and orchards, and pools to water them; I got me servants and maidens, and great possessions of cattle; I gathered me also silver and gold, and men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, and musical instruments of all sorts; and whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them; I withheld not my heart from any joy. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and behold! all was vanity and vexation of spirit! I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as light excelleth darkness.

From *Ecclesiastes*,
as quoted by Thomas Jefferson, 1816